

Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee – November 13, 2003

Chair Herro called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Ken Herro (Chair), Mareth Kipp, Carl Seitz, Sandra Wolff and James Jeskewitz.

Absent: Paul Pronold and Alicia Silva.

Also Present: Director of Health and Human Services Peter Schuler, Administrative Services Manager Tom Kutz, Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Deputy Director of Health and Human Services Ernie Messinger, Intake & Support Services Manager Don Mauer, Community Development Coordinator Glen Lewinski, Senior Budget Analyst Andy Thelke, Community Development Coordinator Glen Lewinski, Office Services Coordinator Windy Jicha, Chief of Staff Allison Bussler.

Approve Minutes of October 30, 2003

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, Seitz second, to approve the minutes of October 30, 2003. **Motion carried:** 4-0.

Correspondence

- Information on the Upcoming Alzheimer's Conference

Future Meeting Dates

- December 4, 2003

Discuss and Consider Ordinance 158-O-106: Appropriate Additional State of Wisconsin Funding in the Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services

Kutz said this ordinance appropriates additional state revenue totaling \$399,400. This amount includes \$75,000 from State Community-Based Medicaid Administrative Claiming, \$150,000 from the State General Relief Block Grant and \$174,4000 from State Youth Aids. The ordinance modifies the 2003 Health and Human Services – Human Services Fund budget by appropriating the additional state revenue of \$399,400 to cover expenses estimated to be over budget \$399,400 by year-end. The HHS staff project personnel costs to exceed budget appropriations by \$95,000 due to greater full time salary and benefit costs than budgeted. These personnel costs above budget are mostly related to lower than budgeted vacancy turnover savings and a 0.4% in the required Wisconsin Retirement System contribution rate resulting in a \$45,000 increase above the level assumed in the budget. HHS staff also estimate Mental Health Outpatient medication costs to exceed budget by \$130,000. The HHS staff estimate the Birth to Three Program expenditures for contracted services to exceed budget by \$49,4000 reflecting the newly established contract with LSS that limits county financial participation to no more than the state required maintenance of effort.

Kipp asked where does the state come up with this money? Kutz said during 2003, Waukesha County had fewer youth than budgeted enter into the correctional system. The county budgets so much money for youth who go into Ethan Allen. If these numbers aren't achieved, the money is available to pay for substitute care. Schuler said the money was Waukesha County's in the first place. It is in a reserve pool. He said he should have told the committee about this issue during budget presentations.

Kipp asked if it is specified how the county should spend this money? Kutz said there is flexibility on how we spend the money.

Esler said alternate care is 72% funded by tax levy. Because of an over estimate of correctional placements, we have youth aids funds coming into a program that is 25% funded by tax levy. Do we

under estimate tax levy programs and transfer state money, such as youth aids, into them? Isn't it a good thing for the county? From the explanation in the fiscal note it appears that tax levy appropriated for community services can cover over budget expenses. Kutz replied that estimates of correctional placements are monitored and adjusted by the state and expenditures are adjusted to reflect actuals versus estimates.

Schuler said he and Kutz reviewed with the committee how they figure budgets for the different programs. Waukesha County was supposed to have enough funding to cover all mandated programs. We would not underestimate correctional placements because that is a fatal mistake. It will catch up with you sooner or later. There have been several years where we overestimated placements. Esler said we wouldn't want to under estimate our costs. Messinger said if we did, we would have to come back to the board every year to ask for contingency funding to cover expenses.

MOTION: Kipp moved, Wolff second, to approve Ordinance 158-O-106: Appropriate Additional State of Wisconsin Funding in the Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services. **Motion carried:** 5-0.

Review of the 2003 Wisconsin Council on Children and Families Data for State of Wisconsin and Waukesha County

Mauer distributed information on the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families' mission is to promote the well being of children and families in Wisconsin by advocating for effective and efficient health, education and human service delivery systems. This is accomplished through educational conferences, on-going projects and publications. Also distributed to the committee were handouts on the KIDS COUNT project. KIDS COUNT, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the United States. By providing policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well being, KIDS COUNT seeks to enrich local, state, and national discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for all children. At the national level, the principal activity of the initiative is the publication of the annual KIDS COUNT Data Book, which utilizes the best available data to measure the educational, social, economic, and physical well being of children. At the state level, the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families provides a more detailed county-by county picture of the condition of children through the annual publication of WisKids Count Data Book. The HHS uses the statistics listed in this book as a comparison to what is happening in Waukesha County.

Mauer reviewed statistics on Waukesha County, highlighting demographics that have changed since 1990. The number of families living in poverty in both the state and the county has decreased. Poor neighborhoods are determined by statistics gathered from the census. There are formulas used to determine what is a "poor neighborhood." Mauer pointed out the increase in fair market rent. In 1991 the rate was \$482 per month and in 2002, the rate rose to \$670. The number of child abuse substantiations is almost half of what it used to be. The rate declined from 6.9 per 1,000 children in 1991 to 3.4 in 2002. With the start of W2, there was concern that there would be a lack of unlicensed and uncertified childcare facilities. The statistics on childcare do not reflect a shortage. The number of licensed child slots per 1,000 rose from 278.9 in 1991 to 340.9 in 2002 and the number of certified child slots per 1,000 increased from 14.5 in 1991 to 16.2 in 2002. Mauer said generally, if someone gets a job, we can find him or her childcare.

Lastly, Mauer distributed and reviewed a hard copy of a PowerPoint presentation titled; 2003 WISKIDS Count; A Painted-by-Numbers Portrait of Child Well-Being in Wisconsin. Per the report, juvenile arrests have declined from 102.4 per thousand in 1995 to 88.1 per thousand in 2002. The rate of children placed

in correctional institutions has declined from 15.1 per thousand children in 1995 to 10.5 per thousand in 2002. Juvenile arrests for drug related offenses increased from 0.7 per thousand children to 4.2 per thousand in 2000. Wisconsin's relatively high graduation rate of 90% hides the substantial gap between white students and minority students. Mauer said 60% of Wisconsin's low-income households pay more than 30% of their income for housing. Adequate affordable housing is a problem for most counties in the state.

Overview of Housing Trends in Waukesha

Lewinski said Waukesha County doesn't really have affordable housing. Sixty-two new houses were built in Waukesha County in the last five years that were considered affordable. The average house price in Waukesha County is \$218,000 and the new construction average cost is \$260,000. Other than Phoenix Heights and a few units in Mukwonago, they don't see any homes being built that meet the federal criteria (under \$163K) for affordable housing. Any housing costs in excess of 30% of wages are a cost burden. A family of four in the metro median, the maximum under normal lending criteria, is \$134,000. It is hard to be a first-time homeowner in Waukesha County. You have to provide housing for all levels of income in order to provide all the needs and services for a community. You can't import people to work in Waukesha County to do the lesser paying jobs. There are 2,500 people on the list to get low-income housing. In 1990 we were one of the highest costing rental counties in the state. He doesn't know the solutions. How do you expand the level of lower income housing to bring more people into the county to work in the service industry jobs? Everyone says they don't want lower income housing in their backyard.

Esler said do you have any information on housing trends? Are all of these rental costs based on the premise of occupancy by one wage earner or two? What is affordable housing and are we seeing multiple occupancies? Lewinski said you see overburdened housing with no cooking facilities, plumbing, etc. The problem is either high cost burdens or overcrowding. Families are moving in together but that isn't ideal housing. He doesn't know if this is a trend in Waukesha County.

Report on Kinship Care

This issue was held over to the next meeting.

Report on Crisis Respite Services

This issue was held over to the next meeting.

Motion to Adjourn

MOTION: Kipp moved, Seitz second, to adjourn at 3:06 p.m. **Motion carried:** 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alicia Silva
Secretary